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*ANNUAL REPORT*

OF THE

Selectmen and Treasurer

OF THE

Town of Atkinson, N. H.

FOR THE

Year Ending March 1, 1871.

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GAZETTE PRINT, EXCHANGE BLOCK, WATER STREET.  
1871.

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## ANNUAL REPORT.

### RECEIPTS.

Assessed State Tax,	\$1,056 00
County Tax,	766 15
School Tax,	440 00
Town Tax,	2,000 00
Percentage,	165 87
Dog Tax,	32 00
Received from Treasurer of 1869,	454 63
State Railroad Tax,	134 43
Savings Bank Tax,	7 30
Literary Fund,	30 45
from claim on the United States,	128 00
from the town of Hampstead, on account of	
C. J. Follansbee,	26 97
on Town Notes,	4,016 73
Interest on Taxes,	12 84
	<hr/> \$9,271 37

### EXPENDITURES.

Paid State Tax,	\$1,056 00
County Tax,	766 15
Notes and Interest,	4,846 95
Cyrus F. Noyes, School Order,	102 64
Alfred B. Little, " "	102 64
Alonzo Knight, " "	102 64
Sam'l G. Chandler, " "	102 64
S. S. Shannon, " "	102 64
	<hr/> \$7,182 30

### ROADS

Paid William M. Thomas,	\$31 80
Bailey Knight,	39 17
Cyrus F. Noyes,	34 75
Alfred B. Little,	37 45
John Roberts,	25 00
S. G. Chandler,	43 05
Albert Little,	29 85
Thomas Little,	20 89
John Little,	25 00
John Pettingill Jr.,	20 20
	<hr/> \$307 16



## SNOW BILLS.

Paid Stephen S. Shannon, of 1869,	21 08
John Dow, of 1870,	14 08
Daniel W. Goodnow, "	11 18
John Roberts, "	3 30
Stephen S. Shannon, "	13 51
William M. Thomas,	7 26
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	\$70 41

## ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Eliza Cummings, 1869,	\$7 78
James S. Conley, "	2 98
Thomas H. Wason, "	2 40
Amos Dow, overtax, 1870,	1 95
John J. Marsh, "	5 84
Moses B. Stevens, "	13 75
John H. Noyes, "	2 92
Joseph Heblithwaite, "	4 92
Horace Tilton, "	2 92
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	\$45 41

## SUNDRIES.

Paid Gideon W. Conley, School tax 1869,	1 75
John Dunlap, School house tax 1869,	3 01
John B. Clarke, books and stationery,	8 00
William C. Noyes, stamps,	2 00
E. H. Safford, printing report 1869,	15 00
Charles Head, Conley's school tax, 1870,	1 75
Luther Chase, damage to sheep by dogs,	12 00
Abner W. Chandler, " " " "	8 00
Jesse Little, " " " "	8 00
John Dow, ringing bell,	30 00
Alonzo Knight, expense to Exeter,	3 00
Bailey Knight, " " "	2 80
Isaac S. Noyes, expense to Concord,	5 40
Gilman Marston, advice,	7 00
Bailey Knight, stationery,	1 84
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	\$109 55

## PAUPERS.

Paid for support of Mary P. Noyes and family,	70 38
Geo. N. Austin, Salem, support of H. Evans,	25 00
G.N. Austin, serving notice on Town of Atkinson,	9 07
Joshua Merrill, boarding Hosea Evans,	52 00
" " Transient Paupers,	2 50
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	\$158 90

## BRIDGES.

Paid John Roberts, repairing bridge near J. A. Hall,	13 83
Albert Little, " "	4 00
Alonzo Knight, " "	3 80
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	\$21 63

## TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid L. P. E. Richards, bal. services of 1869,	\$14 76	
Enoch Little, Auditor, 1869,	2 00	
William M. Thomas, Auditor, 1869,	3 00	
Jesse Page, S. S. Committee,	12 00	
S. Burley Mason, Town Clerk,	12 22	
William C. Noyes, Collector,	66 90	
“ “ Treasurer,	10 00	
Bailey Knight, Selectman,	41 75	
Alonzo Knight, “	37 00	
Isaac S. Noyes, “	38 00	
		<hr/>
		\$237 63

**RECAPITULATION.**

Receipts, Total,	9,271 37
Expenditures,	8,132 99
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Balance,	\$1,138 38

**STATE OF TOWN FINANCES,**

March 1st, 1871.

**LIABILITIES.**

Notes and Interest,	\$14,816 68
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**ASSETS.**

Cash in hands of the Treasurer,	\$600 00
Balance in hands of Collector,	538 38
Claims on the United States,	1,300 00
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	\$2,438 38
Balance against the town,	\$12,378 30

WILLIAM C. NOYES, *Treasurer.*

BAILEY KNIGHT,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
ALONZO KNIGHT,	
ISAAC S. NOYES,	

} *of*  
} *Atkinson.*

Upon examination of the foregoing accounts, as presented to us by the Selectmen and Treasurer, we find them correctly cast and satisfactory vouchers corresponding with the same.

GILMAN GREENOUGH,	} <i>Auditors.</i>
S. G. CHANDLER,	
ENOCH LITTLE,	

# SCHOOL REPORT.

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## DISTRICT NO. 1.

CYRUS F. NOYES, Prudential Committee.

This school was taught, the first term, by Miss Harriet E. Noyes, at twenty dollars per month. She had 16 scholars; average about 13. The second term was taught by Miss Annie E. George, at \$24 per month. She had 17 scholars; average 14. The first term was taught successfully by a well qualified teacher. The second term commenced well, but was closed in the absence of your Committee. The amount of money per scholar, \$6.03.

## DISTRICT NO. 2.

ALFRED B. LITTLE, Prudential Committee.

This school was taught, the first term, by Miss A. E. Tucker, 8 weeks. The second term by Miss Annie S. Moulton, 6 weeks, at \$28 per month. Whole number of scholars 22; average about 20, each term. The fine accommodations and the interest of the parents have contributed to make this a good school. The amount of money per scholar, \$5.13.

## DISTRICT, NO. 3.

ALONZO KNIGHT, Prudential Committee.

This school was taught by Miss Laura A. Knight 13 weeks, at \$32 per month. She had 25 scholars; average 22. The neatness and order of the writing-books have never been excelled, which is a good indication of the order and success of the school. The amount of money per scholar, \$4.10.

## DISTRICT, NO. 4.

S. G. CHANDLER, Prudential Committee.

This school was taught by Miss Abbie A. Johnson the first term, 8 weeks. 8 scholars; 6 average. The second term, 11 weeks. 7 scholars,—5 average; 2 from out of town. Miss Johnson has taught here before and gave good satisfaction. The wages, \$22 per month. The amount of money per scholar, \$17.10.



## DISTRICT NO. 5.

STEPHEN SHANNON, Prudential Committee.

This school was taught by Mrs. Harriet A. W. Shannon 17 weeks, at \$22 per month. She had 23 scholars; average about 17. Mrs. Shannon has had experience as a teacher and was successful, but her accommodations were bad. There must be a loss until a suitable school house is provided. The amount of money per scholar, \$4.45.

## GENERAL REMARKS.

It was a shrewd philosopher, although infidel, who said "give me the first seven years training of a child and who will, may have him afterward." This sentiment shows the great responsibility of parents and early teachers of our youth. The future happiness of the parent, the usefulness and prosperity of the child and the welfare of the community are largely interested in it. It is the wise remark of an experienced educator, that "if utter inexperience or desperate mediocrity must sit in the teacher's desk, let it be anywhere, everywhere, save in the primary school! For anywhere, everywhere else will its ability to do irreparable mischief be less."

Early impressions and early habits are difficult to forget or change; and hence it is so common to trace our distinguished men to distinguished mothers. Let us have, therefore, the best qualified teachers for our Primary schools, who are competent to teach not only correct science, but correct morals and manners. Good schools are a defence against crime. Statistics show that in England much the largest amount of crime comes up from districts where are the poorest schools. It is true that in France the best educated departments have furnished the most crime,—but the reason is obvious: There, religion is divorced from education; the intellect has been educated, but not the heart, and for this neglect she is suffering to-day. Education is a blessing or a curse, just in proportion to the state of the heart that uses it. Educate the intellect and corrupt the heart and you make a pirate, a highway robber, an assassin. Educate and sanctify the heart, and you have the best element in human society. All foundations need to be carefully laid, otherwise the superstructure, however fine, may fall. Primary schools occupy that position, and hence the importance of skillful teachers. When a good teacher is obtained, continue her; much time is lost by a change.

Every teacher has her peculiar notions and it takes time for children to understand and conform to them. Our times are peculiar: All the elements of evil are stirred to their lowest depths; our children are to meet skilled antagonists in infidelity, intemperance and vice in every form; great questions of national interests are to be settled. Never has there been a time when more important interests were at stake than the present, and when greater responsibility rested on the educators of youth to train recruits for the conflict that is upon us or before us. The condition of France is in the place of a thousand arguments for the right moral training of our youth,—to reverence and obey God.

Our common schools, rightly managed and improved, together with our academy, afford the best estate for our young people with which to commence life. With these we can do a better service for ourselves, for our country and the world than we could were our hill a mine of gold.

A wealthy business man of Massachusetts remarked to me that he noticed that young men who were aided much in commencing business frequently failed; he should give his sons nothing but good education and good advice until they had learned to earn and appropriate money.

Our academy thus furnishes us with the elements of success. A good intellectual and moral education is better for any young person than a thousand dollars without it; better for a husband, better for a wife, a mother or any relation in life. It is the duty of all prudential committees to employ the best teachers that their means can command, giving the preference, other things being equal, to home talent and training. Those who have been educated under our eye we more thoroughly know. We cannot tell how a stranger may do; they have had experience—but there is a wrong as well as right experience.

"To many, experience is like the stern lights of a ship, which illumines only the track it has passed." Such experience is of no value. The teacher who merely opens the book to see that the pupil recites the words correctly and when the school is closed dismisses the subject until the next morning, is not fit for a teacher. A teacher who will not prepare herself before entering the school-room, by a thorough knowledge of the subject to be taught and well-arranged plans for presenting it to the class so that all questions that may naturally arise may be readily answered, should not attempt to teach. The oldest and best professors in our colleges always prepare themselves fresh for their recitations.

The business of looking after our schools should be no sinecure. While we look after other things with care, let not the most important, the right training of our youth, be neglected. The question has already been raised, whether the present is an improvement on the past, when boys were trained to habits of industry, self-reliance and usefulness, and gained health and vigor by honest labor. It is not too late to take up what was good in the past and carry it into the future. The command is "to improve all things, and hold fast that which is good."

I think it would be well, in the engagement of teachers for the coming season, to contract for Saturday forenoon, which should be devoted to the review of each school in turn, when all the teachers should be present. It would act as a healthy stimulus and be a source of improvement and profit to both teachers and pupils.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JESSE PAGE,

Superintending School Committee.

ATKINSON, N. H., FEB. 28, 1871.